

## Professor Honest Prosper Ngowi: In Memorium

By  
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On 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2022, Tanzania lost one of its prominent economists and academic Professors, Honest Prosper Ngowi, in a road accident which took place at Mlandizi in the Coast Region while on his way to attend a Meeting at Mzumbe University in Morogoro. He was with driver Innocent Mringo, who also perished in the accident. He was just 55 years old.

Professor Ngowi was an Associate Professor of Economics, researcher and consultant in Economics and Business at Mzumbe University, Tanzania. He was also the Principal of the Dar es Salaam Campus College of the Mzumbe University. Born in 1967, he did his Advanced Diploma in Economic Planning at the then Institute of Development Management (IDM) Mzumbe, Morogoro

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before joining the Agder University College in Norway for his Masters in Business and Economics. He was later awarded a doctorate by the Open University of Tanzania.

Professor Ngowi joined the teaching staff of Mzumbe University in 1994 rising steadily from the humble position of Tutorial Assistant to Associate Professor in 2014. This was not accidental but rather through hard work. He was a prolific writer. In the course of years, he researched, consulted and published over 100 academic works, 80 consultancy reports, 2000 newspaper and magazine articles on economics and business.

His works and lectures covered a variety of issues including macro-and micro-economics; international trade; managerial economics; Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs); The new knowledge Economy; Entrepreneurship; Informal Sector; Privatization; Public Private Partnerships (PPPs); Executive Agencies in Service Delivery; Project Management; Unlocking Economic Growth Potentials; Shared Economic Growth; University-Industry Linkages; Funding Civil Societies; Mainstreaming HIV/AIDS in Curricula and Workplaces; East African Common Market; Economic Impacts of HIV/AIDS; Public Expenditure Review Systems (PETS) and Poverty; as well as the Current Global Financial and Economic Crisis.

Professor Ngowi did not confine his teaching to the University. He was fondly referred as a peoples' professor because of his desire to share his wide knowledge with the members of the public. In the process of demystifying economics, he spent time writing complicated concepts in daily newspapers and in simple English and Kiswahili. These were in *Mwananchi* Newspaper (Every Thursday), *The Citizen* (Every Saturday) and had a weekly programme on the Independent Television (ITV). He also produced an Online Videocast – Ngowi TV (*www.Ngowitv.co.tz*).

Professor Ngowi did not shy away from supporting the international community, government, the private sector as well as the civil society. He thus served on the Boards of several institutions including Economics Society of Tanzania; United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); Virtual Institute; Organisation for Social Science Research in Africa (Ethiopia); Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (Senegal); Norwegian Society for Business Administration (Norway); Association of African Public Administration and Management (AAPAM); Foundation for Civil Society;

Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF); Envirocare; Restless Development; Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC); SWISSAID; University of Stellenbosch Business School Company in the Republic of South Africa; and Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) Centre Limited.

Professor Ngowi was also working closely with the Catholic Church and the Interfaith Standing Committee on Economic Justice and Integrity of Creation in Tanzania (ISCEJIC). In this collaboration with Religious Leaders he assisted in the preparation of various policy publications under the Interfaith Union. These included: *Our People or Our Gold, Golden Opportunity*: How Tanzania is failing to benefit from Gold mining; *The One Billion Dollar Question*: How can Tanzania Stop Loosing So Much Tax Revenues; *The One Billion Dollar Question*: Revisited Five Years Later; How Much is Tanzania Now Losing in Potential Tax Revenue? *Uranium Scoping Study*: The state of uranium exploration and its economic potential; the *Environmental Study in North Mara and Geita*; *Make it Possible*: How Tax Commitments Can Move Tanzania Towards Universal Health Insurance Coverage; Social Market Economy Model for Tanzania: Towards Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Model; and *Policy Impact Assessment of the One Billion Questions Reports*. These policy documents contributed to major discussions in the country under religious leaders and facilitated the reform of various policies such as the Mining Policy 2009, the Mining Act 2010, International Tax Policies, Social Security Policy, Universal Health Insurance Policy and Law.

In his extensive academic, research and consultancy work, Professor Ngowi interacted and networked with colleagues and friends from across the globe and particularly from Norway, United Kingdom, India, Senegal, Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Zambia, South Africa, Swaziland, Malawi, United States, Sweden, Denmark, Canada, Rwanda, Burundi, Nigeria and many others. This interaction opened the doors for his membership in various international professional associations including Associate Member of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Virtual Institute; Organisation for Social Science Research in Africa (Ethiopia); Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (Senegal); Norwegian Society for Business Administration (Norway); Agricultural Economists Society of Tanzania; Association of African Public Administration and Management (AAPAM); International Academy of African Business and Development (IAABD); Lake Victoria Research Initiative

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(VicRes); Editor of Development Southern Africa, HURIA, Kenyan Business Administration, Education Research (USA); and IAABD journals; and Participant in World Bank's Rapid Response Discussions and others.

Professor Ngowi did not only teach and lecture about business and economics. He practised what he taught. His home was like a mini-commercial farm with all sorts of stock and each and every animal and bird knew him and followed him around upon arrival from work. He would then take time to feed attend each of them personally to their satisfaction. That was typical Professor Ngowi who attended to everything that mattered - personally.

We on the Editorial Board of the *International Diplomatic Review Journal* and the Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim Centre for Foreign Relations feel honoured and privileged to have been associated with the life of our colleague Professor Honest Prosper Ngowi. Notwithstanding his busy and crowded schedule, Professor Ngowi still valued the Centre and its flag bearing Journal. He never missed a meeting and was always punctual volunteering to review and edit works of our contributors. While we join his wife Bahati and his children Alpha, Nana and Omega to mourn his departure, we believe that his legacy will live forever.

Fare thee well Professor Honest Prosper Ngowi – You will be genuinely missed!